

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An illumination apparatus comprising:

an LED light source;

a light guide plate having a groove portion for
5 receiving said LED light source, and character portions
formed by concave portions or convex portions with
desired shapes, said character portions being provided
on a back surface of said light guide plate; and

10 a base member covering said back surface and said
groove portion of said light guide plate, said base
member being bonded to said light guide plate in a
circumferential edge portion of said base member.

2. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 1,

15 wherein said groove portion is formed in said back
surface of said light guide plate.

3. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein said light guide plate and said base member are
20 made of one and the same material, and said light guide
plate and said base member are bonded to each other by
welding.

4. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 1,

25 wherein said character portions are constituted by

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convex portions, and a second groove portion is provided in said back surface of said light guide plate so as to follow outer circumferences of said convex portions.

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5. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a metal layer is formed on said character portions, or on said back surface of said light guide plate except portions where said character portions are formed.

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6. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a light emission observable surface of said base member has light reflection property.

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7. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said illumination apparatus is a scuff plate installed on a side step portion of a car.

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8. An illumination apparatus comprising:
an LED light source;
a light guide plate having a groove portion for receiving said LED light source, and character portions formed by concave portions or convex portions with desired shapes, said character portions being provided

on a back surface of said light guide plate; and
a base member covering said back surface and said
groove portion of said light guide plate;

wherein said base member is hermetically bonded
5 to said light guide plate in a circumferential edge
portion of said base member, thereby hermetically
sealing said LED light source.

9. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 8,
10 wherein said groove portion is formed in said back
surface of said light guide plate.

10. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 8,
wherein said light guide plate and said base member are
15 made of one and the same material, and said light guide
plate and said base member are bonded to each other by
welding.

11. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 8,
20 wherein said character portions are constituted by
convex portions, and a second groove portion is
provided in said back surface of said light guide plate
so as to follow outer circumferences of said convex
portions.

12. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 8,
wherein a metal layer is formed on said character
portions, or on said back surface of said light guide
plate except portions where said character portions are
5 formed.

13. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 8,
wherein a light emission observable surface of said
base member has light reflection property.

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14. An illumination apparatus according to Claim 8,
wherein said illumination apparatus is a scuff plate
installed on a side step portion of a car.

15 15. A illumination apparatus according to Claim 8,
wherein a flange portion is formed in a circumferential
edge portion of said light guide plate, and an end wall
of said circumferential edge portion of said base
member is bonded to said flange portion.

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16. A illumination apparatus according to Claim 8,
further comprising a light permeable sheet member
provided on a emission observable surface side of said
light guide plate.